**Installing OpenCV on Mac**

**UPDATE: Mavericks users were likely frustrated for the last few weeks trying to install OpenCV. It appears the problem has been fixed, and these instructions should work without issue.**

My [previous post on installing OpenCV for Mac users](http://www.jeffreythompson.org/blog/2012/09/21/installing-opencv-for-python-on-mac-lion/) is one of the most popular on this site (which is simultaneously surprising and fantastic). However, I recently switched from using [MacPorts](http://www.macports.org/) to [Homebrew](http://brew.sh/) – users that need to migrate existing installs can [check out this guide](http://bitboxer.de/2010/06/03/moving-from-macports-to-homebrew/).

Still complicated but thoroughly do-able, here is how to install OpenCV on a Mac running Mountain Lion:

1. Open Applications > Utilities > Terminal…
2. Install Homebrew by [typing the following](http://brew.sh/) into Terminal



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | ruby -e "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install) |
|  |  |

1. Run the command brew doctor to check for any errors
2. While normal installations using Homebrew are very straightforward, for some reason OpenCV [requires an extra step](https://github.com/mxcl/homebrew/issues/18874#issuecomment-16001463) – you need to install an add-on called science:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | brew tap homebrew/science |
|  |  |

1. Then you can run the usual Homebrew command to install OpenCV:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | brew install opencv |

If this fails, it may be that you have ffmpeg installed – if so, [try this instead](https://github.com/Homebrew/homebrew-science/issues/221#issuecomment-20519551):



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | brew install opencv --env=std |
|  |  |

1. This may take several minutes, so be patient!
2. Homebrew may tell you that you have to update  PYTHONPATH  – if so, open your favorite text editor, click File > Open… and hit command+shift+. to see hidden files
3. Navigate up to your home folder and open the  .bash\_profile  file – if it doesn’t exist, create it yourself
4. Add the line suggested by Homebrew, probably something like:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | export PYTHONPATH=/usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages:$PYTHONPATH |
|  |  |

1. Save the file and close it – you may also have to exit Terminal and open it again
2. Test by opening Python:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | python |

Then try to import OpenCV:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | import cv |

1. If you don’t get any errors, you’re all set! Now go enjoy a real beer!

Hope this helps! Problems, suggestions – leave them in the comments.